

4.7

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/776,384

Examiner

Paul Ip

Applicant(s)

SUGIURA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to this application filed 2/10/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Paul Ip
Primary Examiner
AU 2837

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-9 have been carefully considered in light of the specification and figures 1-6 of the invention. The invention recited in the claims are directed into the a plurality of control units each set at a different position of a vehicle for controlling opening and closing of a corresponding one of mobile structures. A communication line having an interface comprises a switching element for being switched on and off and thereby causing selectively a higher voltage and a lower voltage to be applied to the communication line. The specified control unit has a detector for detecting an underwater condition and a communication preventing function of applying a constant voltage to the interface of the communication line. The specified control unit is adapted to prevent communications through the communication line by applying the constant voltage to a drive line to the switching element and thereby keeping the switching element switched on or off. Claim 1 represents the invention as set forth in the previous paragraph.

The patents to Ohashi (6,111,373), Hiwatari (6,288,506), and Ohasi et al (6,081,085) disclose power window apparatuses comprising a submergence (water or underwater) detector for detecting a vehicle sinking into water in an accident condition. A control unit responses to the submergence detector to control the vehicle window opening/closing operation. These patents teach the general concept of the opening/closing window operation when the vehicle is sinking into water in an accident condition. These patents fail to teach or suggest a communication line having an

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interface and connecting the control units for allowing communications among the control units. Especially, these patents fail to teach or suggest that a specified one of the control units is adapted to transmit an operating signal, in response to a switch operation thereon, to another of the control units through the communication line to make the mobile structure corresponding to the another control unit operable, and a communication preventing function of applying a constant voltage to the interface of the communication line and thereby preventing communications through the communication line if an underwater condition is detected by the detector function.

The patents to Pohjola (6,469,404), Yoshida et al (6,157,091), Taniguchi et al (6,744,147), Nagaura et al (6,049,139), Darbesio (5,194,756), and Yoshida et al (2001/0054847) disclose communication systems for vehicles including an abnormality detection circuit for determining the abnormal condition of the vehicle communication system.

The patents to Takagi et al (6,060,794 or 6,031,296 or 6,072,290 or 5,547,208) disclose vehicle power window safety systems for controlling the vehicle windows when the vehicle is in under water condition.

The patents/publications to Saito et al (2003/0098211 or 2003/0001434 or 2002/0043964 or 2001/0028241 or 6,769,521) disclose vehicle communication systems including a short circuiting detection circuit.

The references either of the record taken alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest the invention as recited in claims 1-9.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) is required in this application because the drawings submitted on 2/10/2004 are informal drawings. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Ip whose telephone number is (571)-272-1941. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571)-272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Paul Ip
Primary Examiner
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06/06/2005